



Beaverhead-Deerlodge
National Forest
1820 Meadowlark
Butte, MT 59701

Montana Department of
Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901



March 22, 1996

Dear Forest User:

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) invite those who are interested to provide comments on a proposal by Beal Mountain Mining, Inc. (BMMI) to expand the southeast portion of the South Beal pit. The South Beal Expansion proposal would provide approximately 5.1 million tons of low-sulfide (clean) waste rock which would be used for reclamation of the existing BMMI facilities and for backfilling the Main Beal pit. Removal of this clean waste would allow the mining of approximately 600,000 tons of additional South Beal ore reserves, extending the life of Beal Mountain Mine by approximately one year.

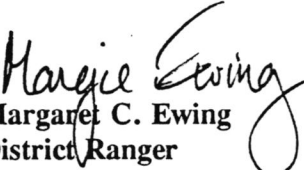
The South Beal Expansion proposal includes:


- 10.0 acre expansion of the South pit;
- Construction of a new section of haul road (4 acres) to access the upper levels of the South Beal pit;
- Enhancement of the approved reclamation plan to use "clean" South Beal waste rock for additional Main Beal pit backfill, and for capping the heap leach pad and waste rock storage facility to provide deeper soil depths;
- Hauling South Beal waste rock to the Main Beal pit for backfill during the winter months and,
- Using available "clean" South Beal expansion waste to cover portions of the Main Beal pit highwall containing sulfide materials.

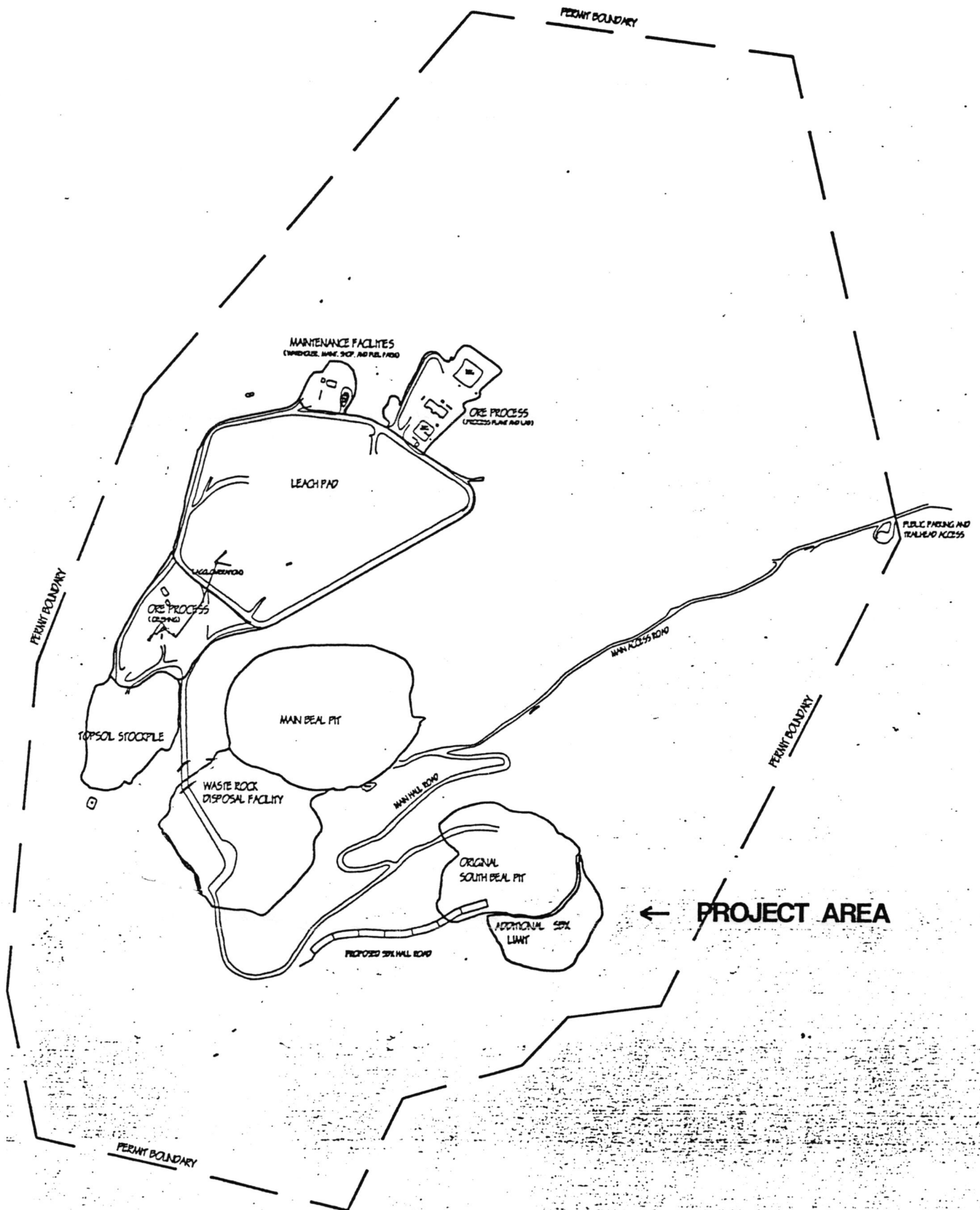
The environmental assessment for this proposal will be tied to the 1990 South Beal Expansion environmental impact statement (EIS). A copy of the EIS is available for your review at the Butte Ranger District Office or at the DEQ Office in Helena. Additional information on the BMMI proposal is available from either office.

Comments will be accepted until April 19, 1996 by writing Margaret C. Ewing, District Ranger, 1820 Meadowlark, Butte, MT 59701. If you wish to receive a draft EA or information on the decision for this proposal, you must respond to this scoping notice. If we do not hear from you, your name will be removed from the mailing list for this project.

If you have additional questions, please contact Jocelyn Dodge at the Butte Ranger District, (406) 494-2147 or Mike DaSilva at the DEQ (406) 444-2711.


Margaret C. Ewing
District Ranger


Sandra J. Olsen
Hard Rock Bureau Chief



BEAL MOUNTAIN MINING, INC.